



New Americans in Houston

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area¹

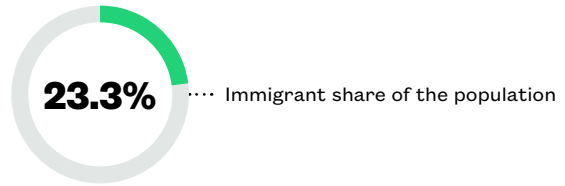
POPULATION

6.8M

Total population in 2016

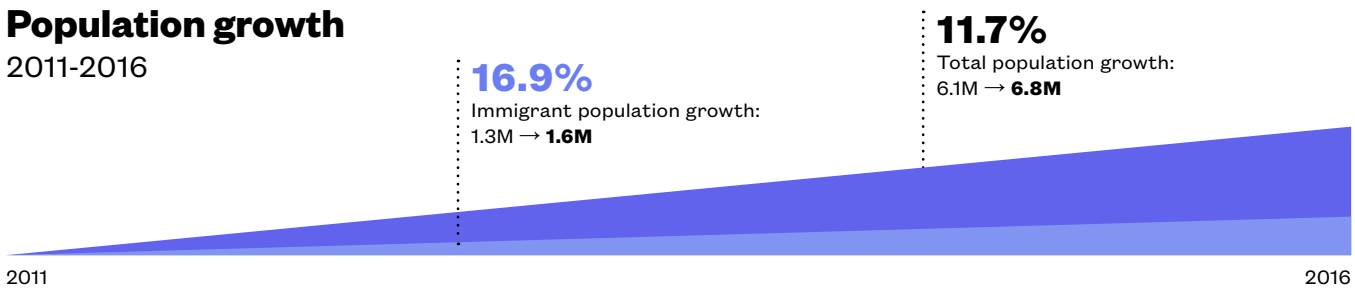
1.6M

Immigrant population



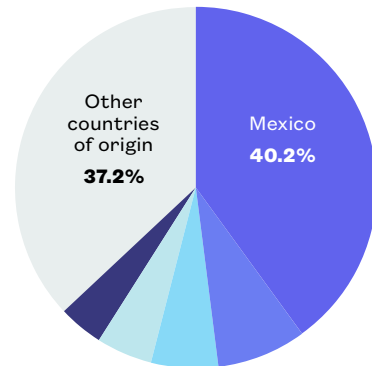
Population growth

2011-2016



Share of total population growth in Houston attributed to immigrants

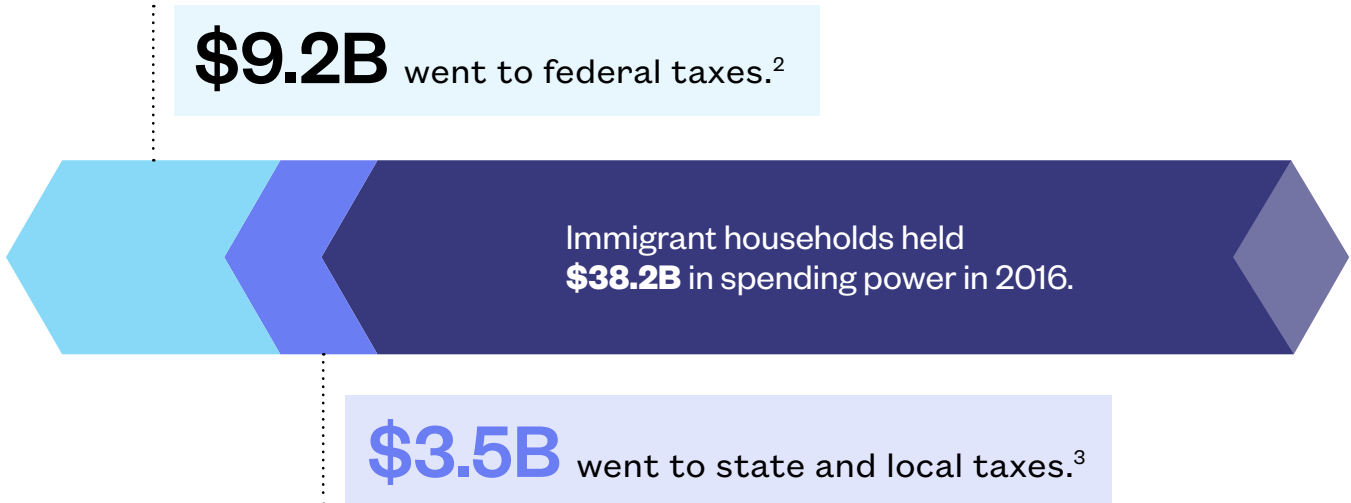
Top five countries of origin:



- 1 Mexico 40.2%
- 2 El Salvador 7.6%
- 3 Vietnam 5.9%
- 4 India 5.5%
- 5 Honduras 3.6%

TAX CONTRIBUTIONS & SPENDING POWER

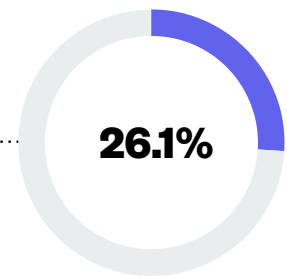
Foreign-born residents in the metro area hold significant **economic power**. In 2016, immigrant households in Houston earned **\$50.9B**.



Total GDP in the Houston metro area was **\$478.6B** in 2016.

\$124.7B of that was contributed by foreign-born residents.

This means Houston immigrants contributed 26.1% of the metro area's GDP.⁴



Foreign-born residents also support federal social programs.

In 2016, immigrants in the Houston metro area contributed **\$5B** to Social Security and **\$1.4B** to Medicare.

17.4% of immigrants in the area received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **29.4%** of U.S.-born residents in 2016.



About **51%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **17.5%** had public healthcare coverage.⁵

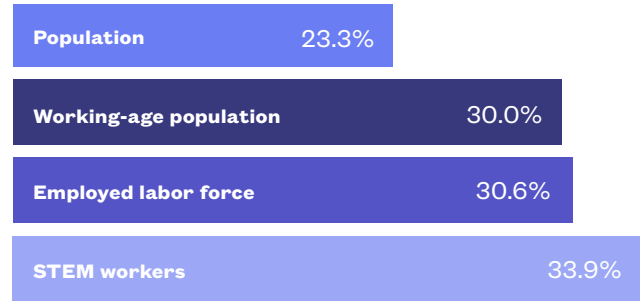


LABOR FORCE

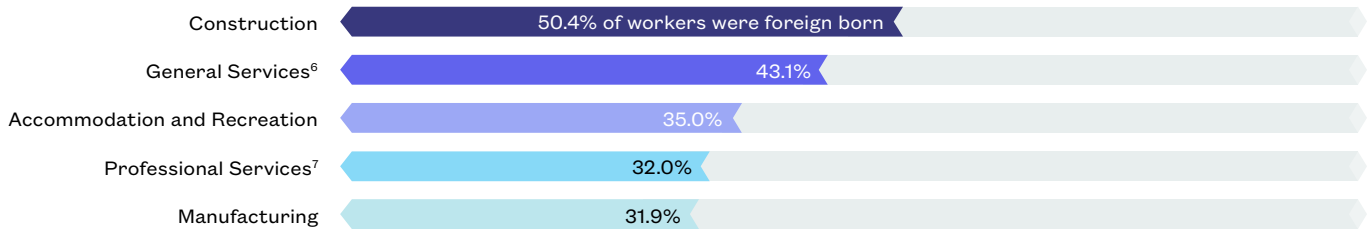
Although the foreign-born made up **23.3%** of the metro area's overall population, they represented **30%** of its working-age* population, **30.6%** of its employed labor force, and **33.9%** of its STEM** workers in 2016.

* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old.
 ** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Immigrant shares of the...

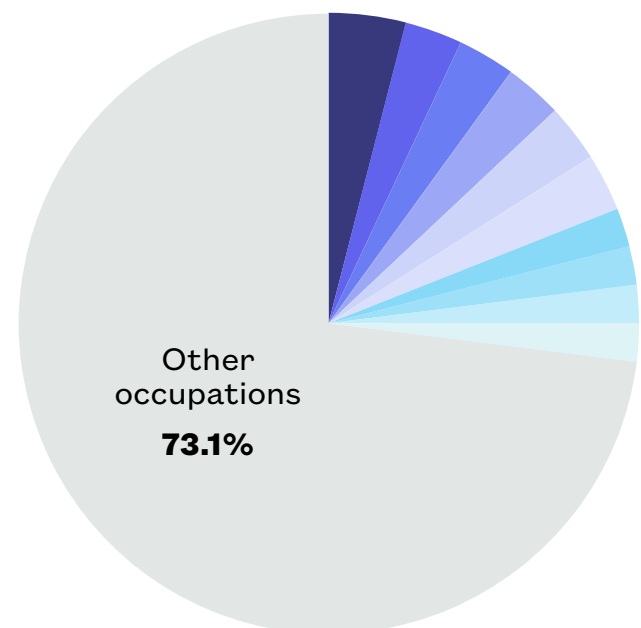


Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the metro area. This includes:



Immigrants in the metro area tend to concentrate in these **occupations**:

- 1 Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners... 3.7%
- 2 Construction Laborers... 3.4%
- 3 Cooks... 3.0%
- 4 Janitors & Building Cleaners... 2.8%
- 5 Truck Drivers... 2.7%
- 6 Carpenters... 2.6%
- 7 Ground Maintenance Workers... 2.4%
- 8 Registered Nurses... 2.2%
- 9 Cashiers... 2.2%
- 10 Miscellaneous Managers⁸... 1.9%



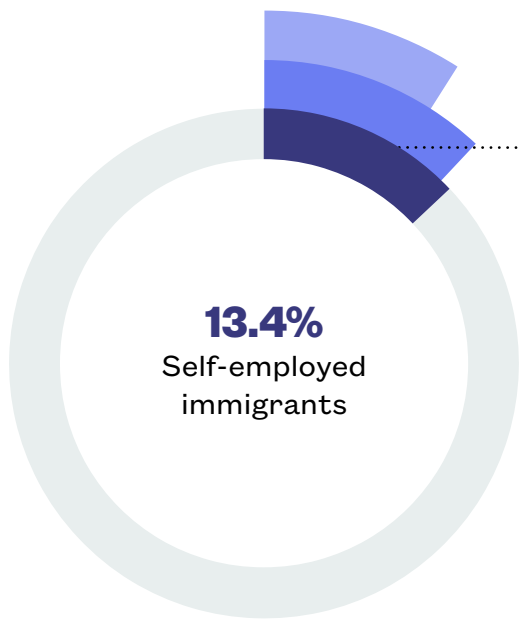
LABOR FORCE CONT.

Immigrants fill critical gaps in the workforce, allowing companies to keep jobs on U.S. soil. By 2016, immigrants had helped **create or preserve**

72,576 local manufacturing jobs

that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.⁹

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



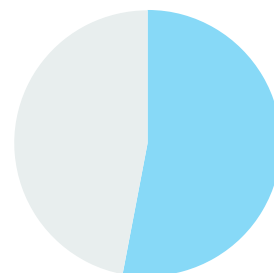
In 2016, **13.4%**, or **131,535**, of employed immigrants in Houston were **self-employed**.

Compared to...

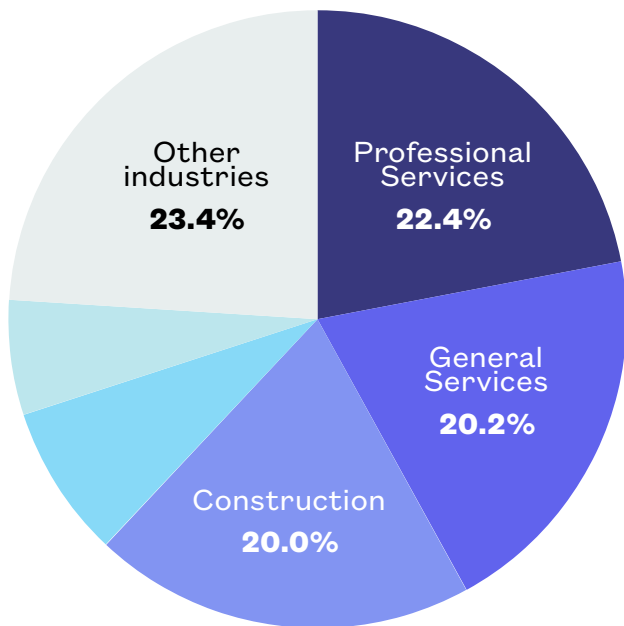
- **11.9%** Immigrant national average
- **8.8%** U.S.-born average

That year, they generated **\$3.2B** in business income.

Immigrants in the area were **53.2%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.



Immigrant entrepreneurs tend to own businesses in these key industries in the metro area:



- 1 Professional Services 22.4%
- 2 General Services 20.2%
- 3 Construction 20.0%
- 4 Healthcare 7.6%
- 5 Retail Trade 6.4%

In 2012...

African American-owned businesses in the metro area generated

\$4.4B
in sales and paid

38,862 employees.

Asian-owned businesses generated

\$26.9B
in sales and paid

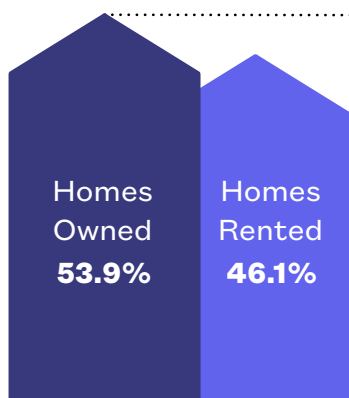
122,315 employees.

Hispanic-owned businesses generated

\$22.7B
in sales and paid

105,700 employees.¹⁰

HOUSING



In 2016, **53.9%** of immigrant households owned their homes in the metro area. That's **359,440** homes.

46.1% of immigrant households were renters.

59.2% of immigrant households lived in **houses**, while **33.6%** lived in **apartments**.

\$78.4B

Total property value

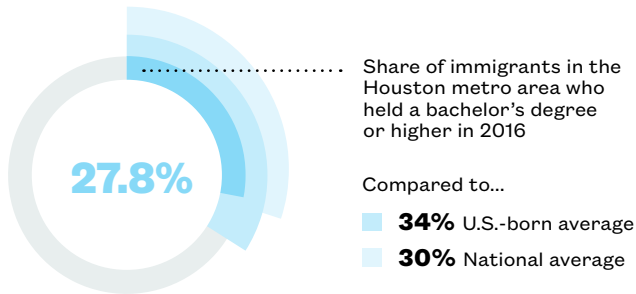
\$3.1B

Total Annual Rent

EDUCATION

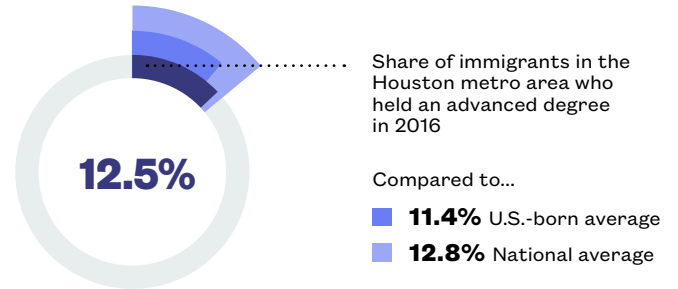
BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

Among immigrants 25 years and older



ADVANCED DEGREE

Among immigrants 25 years and older



In fall 2015, there were **20,063 international students** at colleges and universities in the Houston metro area.¹¹

International students supported

5,255

local jobs...

And spent

\$509.9M

in the 2016-17 academic year.¹²

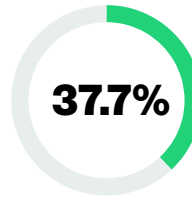
Students under 18 who attended public schools in the area in 2016:



NATURALIZATION

594,921

Number of foreign-born residents in Houston who had naturalized as of 2016

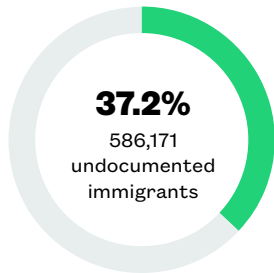


Share of foreign-born residents who had naturalized as of 2016

Among the **982,813** immigrants who were not citizens...

22.2%, or **217,815**, were likely eligible to naturalize.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS



Share of immigrant population in Houston metro area that was undocumented in 2016

6.1%, or **96,669**, undocumented immigrants were likely to be **DACA-eligible**.

Undocumented immigrant households in Houston earned **\$11B** in total income in 2016.

\$742.0M went to federal taxes.¹³

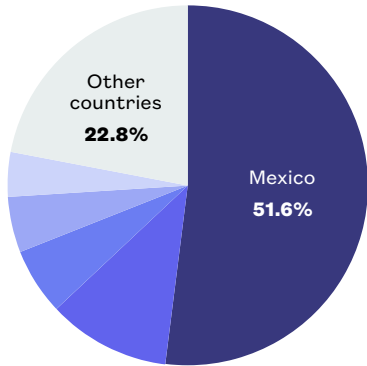
This left them with **\$9.8B** in spending power.¹⁴

\$448.4M went to state and local taxes.^{15 16}

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS CONT.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

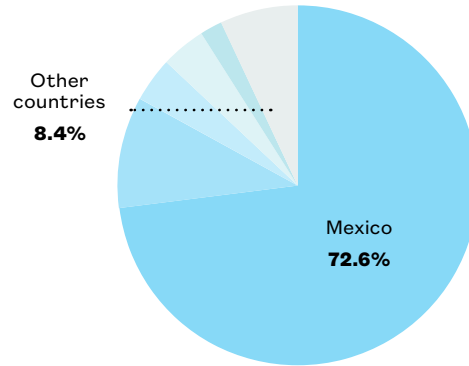
Top Countries of Origin:



- 1 Mexico51.6%
- 2 El Salvador 11.1%
- 3 Honduras 5.9%
- 4 Guatemala 4.9%
- 5 India3.7%

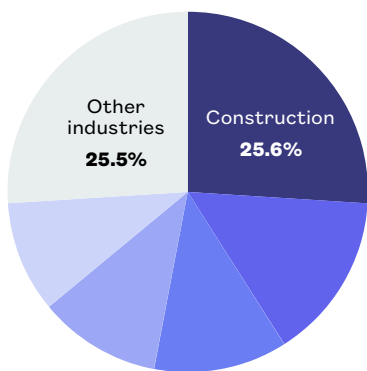
DACA-ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

Top Countries of Origin:



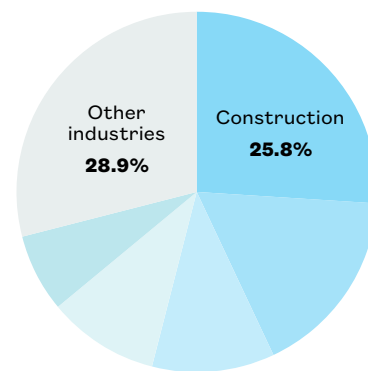
- 1 Mexico 72.6%
- 2 El Salvador9.5%
- 3 Honduras 4.1%
- 4 Guatemala 3.9%
- 5 India1.5%

Concentrated in the Following Industries:



- 1 Construction 25.6%
- 2 Accommodation & Recreation....15.4%
- 3 Professional Services12.2%
- 4 General Services10.9%
- 5 Retail Trade10.4%

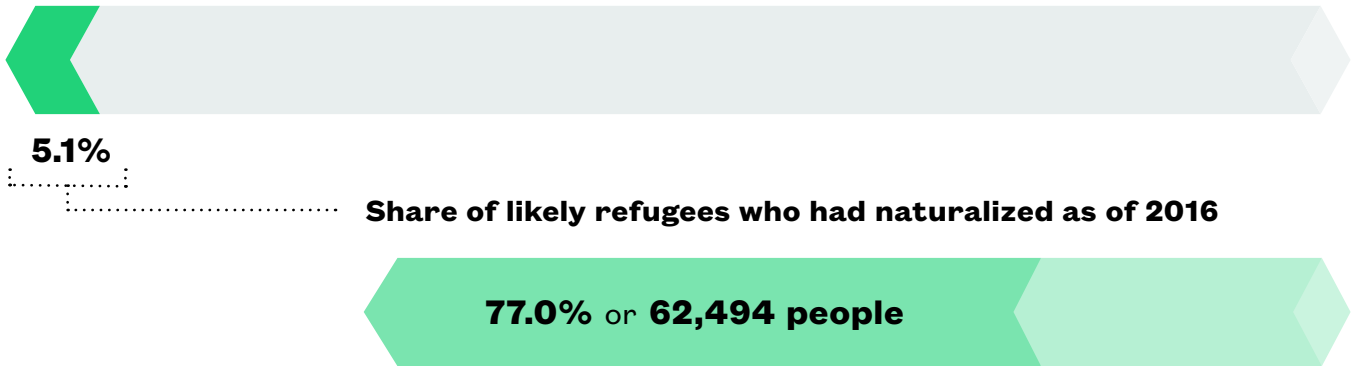
Concentrated in the Following Industries:



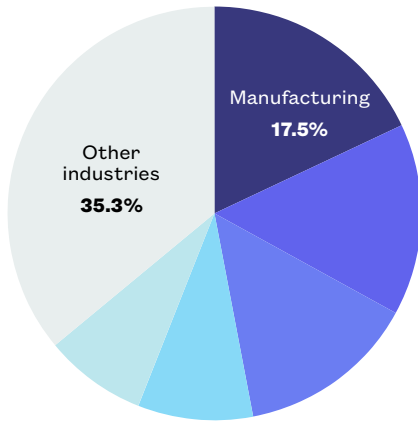
- 1 Construction 25.8%
- 2 Accommodation & Recreation....17.3%
- 3 Professional Services11.0%
- 4 Retail Trade 10.0%
- 5 General Services7.0%

In 2016, **81,131 people**, or **5.1%** of the immigrant population in the area, were likely refugees.¹⁷

Share of immigrants in Houston who were likely refugees

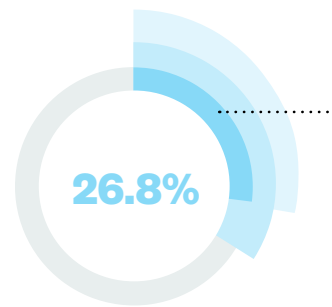


Refugees in the Metro Area Work in the Following Industries:



- 1 Manufacturing 17.5%
- 2 Healthcare 15.0%
- 3 General Services 14.4%
- 4 Retail Trade 9.4%
- 5 Professional Services 8.4%

Education in the Refugee Community:



Share of likely refugees aged 25 and up who held a **bachelor's degree or higher**

Compare to...

- **34.0%** U.S.-born average
- **30.0%** National average

For more city, district, and state-level data, visit MapTheImpact.org and explore our interactive map.



- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data are estimated from the 1-year sample of the American Community Survey from 2016 and figures refer to the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Texas, Metropolitan Statistical Area.
- 2 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 3 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 4 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 1-year ACS sample from 2016 and GDP statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- 5 The percentage of immigrants who had private healthcare coverage includes immigrants who had only private healthcare coverage and those who had both private and public healthcare coverage; likewise, for the percentage of immigrants who had public healthcare coverage.
- 6 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 7 Professional services: Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.
- 8 Miscellaneous managers include funeral service managers and postmasters and mail superintendents.
- 9 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." New American Economy.
- 10 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 11 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Center for Educational Statistics
- 12 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
- 13 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 14 Estimates are based on federal tax rates from the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, and state and local tax rates from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.
- 15 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 16 Gee, Lisa Christensen, Matthew Gardener, and Meg Wiehe, 2016. "Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions," The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.
- 17 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."